

Is there a God?



How do we know?

By MARY LOU MCGIBBON

How do we know there is a God?

If you are asking this question, be sure that you are not asking it to avoid meeting God. The philosopher Kierkegaard pointed out the danger of arguing God's existence in His presence.

Man's struggle to come to terms with this question is hampered by those schools of philosophy who insist that an infinite being is not subject to rational analysis. Certainly a disembodied, ultra-dimensional, infinite being with all the characteristics of perfection is difficult to analyze. After all we are finite beings and the whole question of God is mind-boggling.

For those who must know the truth, there is not the convenient cop-out taken by many philosophers. They do not rule Him out of existence by inductive, logical processes. They simply define him out of existence! How is any reasonable person to come to grips with God when His reality is denied. The philosopher is saying in essence, "There can't be a God. Therefore there isn't a God." His definition of the problem excludes an explanation! A convenient but hardly scientific argument.

Dr. Walter Martin, one of America's top defenders of the Christian faith, and formerly a philosopher himself, wonders why so many Christian students are intimidated by philosophy. "They have a tendency to go into these classes almost apologetically, as if philosophy had refuted Christianity. This is utterly absurd. Philosophy has succeeded magnificently and almost majestically in refuting itself!" He challenges philosophy to produce something concrete in the field of ethics, morality and the betterment of mankind — something philosophy has always demanded that the church do. He asks when philosophy has erected a hospital in a jungle, or an orphanage in a slum or when they have gone into remote areas preaching Jean Paul Sartre belief that there is no exit from life and that man is in utter despair. (One can sympathize in a way. Imagine trying to push this depressing philosophy on to a tribe of cannibals!).

Let us leave sceptical philosophers behind and look for reasonable evidence for God's existence. Take the cosmological argument for the existence of God. This simply means that this universe that we see must have an explanation, because nothing that we see is able to explain its own existence. Let us look at the problem more closely. Did the universe emerge from nothing? Is it eternal? Is it illusory? Is it created and finite (i.e. with a beginning and an end.)?

Did the universe emerge from nothing? The first principle of physics says that from nothing — nothing comes. Can you really imagine the spontaneous emergence of multiple forms of matter and energy in constant motion and in vast quantities from an absolute vacuum? To believe that requires much more faith than to believe in an intelligent creator who governs the universe by laws which we can observe!

Is the universe eternal? If you believe it is then you have to deal with Albert Einstein. Einstein's law of maximum entropy simply means that the universe is running down. Pluto and Uranus are already encased in ice. Furthermore our sophisticated dating mechanisms now tell us that the universe is somewhere between 4 1/2 and 12 1/4 billion years old. Therefore it had a beginning and it will have an end.

Is the universe illusory? How can it be illusory when we can predict the movements of stars; when we can predict the return of Haley's comet? Predictable, mass hallucinations just don't occur. There are, however, people who insist that the only reality is that of their own minds. Their views, however, do not hold up! Imagine the difficulty in crossing a street, if the driver of the on coming car doesn't perceive the same reality that you do. Namely you?

Therefore we are left with a finite universe created by an eternal force which we call God, but an eternal force which we cannot observe in our time space continuum.

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THE BRUNSWICKAN 19

Bruns hits a score point

Dear Editor:

Your editorial last week was a reflection of deep seated problems in this institution which call for thorough investigation before it is too late.

University education, as it is presently constituted, is a considerable investment in time and money, and a questionable one. Many students have mortgaged their lives on student loans. Education seems to be getting them no where economically, except deeper in debt. Yet, the so called student apathy has taken deep roots. Has anyone in this University taken any serious considerations as to why this is so? Does the administration care whether the students take an active role in day to day affairs of this institution? If so, what steps have been taken? Does the SRC care to investigate the problems facing those they represent? At least Vice President Susan Shalala has done some impressive work which reflects her concern for the majority of the student body. Thank you Susan. Who wants to waste his time to vote for a person just to sit in a mighty prestigious office to wait for his subjects to come to pay homage? Ofcourse you may but me off by saying that SRC meetings are open and anyone can attend. Who wants to go to meetings with one knowing the agenda incase the matter for discussion happens to be how much booze should be bought on the weekend. It seems to me as though the SRC is there just to satisfy the public that the student body is represented otherwise someone has yet to convince me that SRC can surely change the

image of this institution for the better.

It is high time a few things were changed here and there to get students involved rather than just ridicule them because they have problems which the present system has apparently failed to solve. In this respect, I have two suggestions to those who may be concerned.

1) In view of the fact that one of the most powerful men in the world, the President of the United States of America, has time to answer questions from the press on hot issues, can't the President of this University afford to hold open conferences with interested students at least once a month? From such conferences the SRC can have something to follow up with the administration.

2) How about faculties holding similar conferences to get a feed back from the students? Surely if some representatives were doing their homework, letters like that of Shokolokom-angoshi concerning professors could not appear.

My suggestions may be dismissed as groundless impractical dreams but it's high time we realized that we are playing a big game and when we all get to

know the rules, there will be no more cat and mouse play. Professors will be hosting early fall beer parties and shopping around for students but it will be too late. Then, some faculties will have to either improve drastically or close down. Miss editor, when fall comes around, we all know that winter is just at the other side of the corner. If we cannot interpret the signs of our times, at least we should learn from other nations which have experienced what we are experiencing now.

To me, the so called student apathy is a message to the society that "You don't care about my values, you just want to impose yours on me; you don't want to listen to me; what you are telling me doesn't make sense to me, hence I will just play it cool and if you still insist, I will just forget about the glorious institutions you have built for me which do not answer my immediate questions, you will call but I wouldn't answer because your chance will be already gone." Miss Editor, if only a few turn out to vote, the message from the others will be "You have had enough time to make a fool of me but I am not going to make a fool of myself."

Luke G. m. Nzangi

Education 3.

Go Bombers Go!!!!

Dear Editor:

This weeks Football game is one of the most important games of the year for the UNB Red Bombers.

Their opposition will be the Halifax N.S. based St. Marys Huskies.

The Bombers thus far this year have been very pleased with the

fans who have been attending their home games. The only thing that the team wish to pass on to their loyal fans is that they are allowed to make noise. Whether it be, clinking their empty bottles together or blowing into their wine flasks.

Signed N.B.

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- We recommend that you attend the briefing session before signing up for a personal interview.
- Plan to join us! We look forward to meeting you.
- The Xerox of Canada people are coming to campus and your Placement Officer has full details.

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THE FOLK COLLECTIVE COFFEEHOUSE is on tonight
(2nd of the season)
FEATURING: PETER ALAN
blues & ragtime picking & singing

Bring your own mug and the coffee & tea are free!
8:30 p.m. Memorial Hall Auditorium
THE HAT WILL BE PASSED

Next coffeehouse: Sunday Oct. 22, with White River
Bluegrass Band from Montreal.